



**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Planning and Economic Development Department

AGENDA DATE: January 6, 2011

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Providencia Velazquez, (915) 541-4027, VelazquezPX@elpasotexas.gov

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT:

A resolution regarding the proposed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Mills Building located at 303 North Oregon Street, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas. Applicant: City of El Paso. **(All Districts)**

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

On December 10, 2010 the Historic Landmark Commission of the City of El Paso recommended approval of the proposed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Mills Building located at 303 North Oregon Street, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas. The Mills Building is located within the locally designated Downtown Historic District and is considered a landmark structure within the district.

Designed by the architectural firm of Trost & Trost in 1908 for General Anson Mills and completed in 1915, the Mills building was the largest monolithic structure in El Paso at the time of construction. Based loosely on the Chicago School of Architecture, the trapezoidal plan features a rounded corner at the intersection of Oregon Street and Mills Avenue, minimal decorative features, and a repetitive fenestration pattern consisting of single hung one-over-one windows.

The current renovation of the building has significantly restored missing architectural elements that were removed in earlier renovation projects. Most notable are the removal of vertical mirrored glass bands which were installed in the mid 1970s and the reconstruction of the original columns and porticos on the Oregon Street and Mills Avenue elevations which were removed from the structure in the late 1920s.

As a participant in the Texas Certified Local Government program, the chief elected official for the City of El Paso is required to notify the Texas Historical Commission's National Register programs office as to the City's opinion with regard to the nomination no later than January 14, 2011.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) N/A

FINANCE: (if required) N/A

DIRECTOR: Mathew McElroy
Deputy Director, Planning and Economic Development Department

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____



Planning & Economic Development
2 Civic Center Plaza • El Paso, Texas 79901 • (915) 541-4670

Mayor
John F. Cook

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2
Susannah M. Byrd

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Melina Castro

District 5
Rachel Quintana

District 6
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7
Steve Ortega

District 8
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO

That the Mayor is authorized to sign a letter in support of the nomination of the Mills Building, located at 303 North Oregon Street, El Paso, Texas, 79901, to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Cynthia Osborn
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Mathew McElroy
Deputy Director,
Planning and Economic Development

SAMPLE LETTER

Dedicated to Outstanding Customer Service for a Better Community

S E R V I C E S O L U T I O N S S U C C E S S



January 7, 2011

Gregory W. Smith
National Register Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of the City of El Paso this letter is submitted in support of the proposed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Mills Building located at 303 North Oregon Street, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

Designed by the architectural firm of Trost & Trost in 1908 for General Anson Mills and completed in 1915 the Mills building was the largest monolithic structure in El Paso at the time of construction. The building's design is based loosely on the Chicago School of Architecture and features a rounded corner at the intersection of Oregon Street and Mills Avenue, minimal decorative features and a repetitive fenestration pattern consisting of single hung one-over-one windows.

Recently the building has undergone a major renovation that has restored missing architectural elements that were removed in earlier renovation projects. The Mills Building was recognized by architect Henry C. Trost as his "greatest monument" and represents the growth and prosperity of the City of El Paso.

The City of El Paso would like to extend its support and favorable recommendation of the nomination of the Mills Building to the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter or require additional information, please contact me at (915) 541-4145 or by email at mayor@elpasotexas.gov.

Sincerely,

John F. Cook
Mayor of El Paso

Cc: Emily Simon and Jay Firsching, ArchiTexas, Inc.
Brent D. Harris, President, Mills Plaza Properties, LLC

Mayor
John F. Cook

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